

Professionalism Commission Minutes, May 10, 2006

Judge Battaglia called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Absentees included: D. Densford, W Hudson, W. Jones, D. Potter, B. Warnken. The minutes from the March 29, 2006 Meeting were approved.

The Commission reviewed its Final Report to the Court of Appeals including the Executive Summary and the Synopses of the eight Subcommittees' work, and approved all with the provision that Judge Battaglia and Reporter Norman Smith will make final additions and corrections. The Appendix to the Final Report will include all of the Minutes of the Commission meetings and all Subcommittee interim reports and will only be available on-line. The Final Report will be filed in printed form with the Court of Appeals on May 31, 2006 and will also be available on-line.

Having decided to recommend that the Commission be made permanent, the Commission took up the question of funding. A permanent Commission must have an office and an administrator to address its mission. After considerable discussion, the Commission voted to recommend that a permanent Commission be funded through an annual assessment on all Maryland lawyers. The amount of the assessment must await the approval of the Court of Appeals.

Judge Battaglia, Judge Bell, and Reporter Norman Smith will travel to each county for meetings in which the judges and the Bar will be solicited for comment on all aspects of the Report. Dates for these meetings will be established through consultation with the Commission representatives as soon as possible.

Judge Battaglia adjourned the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Norman L. Smith, Reporter